

# **Tiverton Town Council Landfill Subcommittee**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes: August 16, 2006**

### **I: Call to Order**

Chairman Wyman called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: A. Wyman (Chairman), T. Ramotowski, J. Fernandes, D. Webster (Director of Public Works), and W. G. Steckman (Town Administrator).

Members absent: R. Hart and D. Wilbur.

### **II: Approval of Minutes**

#### **MOTION 1:**

Mr. Ramotowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2006 regular meeting with the following corrections:

Page 2, section V, paragraph 1, line 4:, line 1: the first "2006" should be changed to "2005".

Page 3, last line: This line should read, "landfill have been ordered (additional signs are on order). Some boulders have been"

Page 4, last paragraph under section VII, line 4: This line should read, "cost of renting the tub-grinder was about \$12,000.00 – about \$2,000.00 more than"

Page 5, section X, line 1: the word "fund" should be changed to "funding."

Seconded by Chairman Wyman.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### **III: Additions/Changes/Acceptance of Agenda**

Mr. Webster stated that he had three items that should be added to the agenda:

- (1) Results of June 2006 quarterly water monitoring;
- (2) Alternate cover material from Aggregate Industries;
- (3) Results of landfill inspection by RI-DEM

Mr. Ramotowski suggested that an update on the status of the RFP for trash collection services be provided. Mr. Steckman stated that the RFP was essentially complete; only the dates needed to be updated. The Town Council has already blessed the document when it was issued previously, so it does not need to go back to the Town Council for approval. The document will probably be issued towards the end of the current year.

#### **IV: Public Input**

There was no public input.

#### **V: Impacts of 01 April 2006 Implementation of Revised Solid Waste Management Ordinance**

Mr. Webster noted that Councilor Paul Carrol had requested an update on the effects of the changes made to landfill operations this past spring. Mr. Ramotowski noted that this subject had been discussed during the last couple of Landfill Subcommittee meetings, and the minutes of those meetings provide the requested information. Mr. Webster stated that vehicle-trips to the landfill have decreased by about 22% over the comparable period of time from last year. Presumably, this translates into a smaller amount of material being deposited at the landfill, but hard figures will not be available until the annual height survey is performed in December by Pare Engineering.

Mr. Ramotowski stated that the reduction in vehicle-trips to the landfill after the new rules went into effect is real, because it pre-dates the change in collection policy for the large, private developments like Country View Estates and Starwoods. During the time interval when the vehicle counts were taking place, those developments did not have curbside garbage collection. After July 1, 2006, they now have curbside collection, so presumably, the number of vehicle-trips to the landfill has decreased even more than the previous figures indicated (vehicle counting ended in June of 2006). In addition, the landfill attendants have been very vigilant about pulling recyclables out of loads of trash people are bringing into the landfill – especially cardboard. Thus, a real reduction in the amount of material being deposited is being achieved.

Mr. Webster agreed, and pointed out that the large pile of construction debris no longer exists – the bulk of that material is no longer being deposited at the landfill. Because the large pile of debris no longer exists, the Town will save money because it no longer has to grind it up. The Town will still need to grind up the brush pile, but that material is mixed in with the fill and used as cover material. Mr. Webster pointed out another indication that the new rules have decreased the amount of material being deposited at the landfill: the location of the active trash pile has not moved much since the time the new rules went into effect. Prior to that time, the location of active landfilling would have changed location every couple of months.

Mr. Webster stated that the cardboard recycling dumpsters provided by Allied (formerly BFI) have been moved deep inside the landfill, near the new location of the scrap metal dumpsters. The landfill attendant will now be stationed there, rather than in the shack by the outside gates. This will allow him to make sure people deposit materials in the appropriate areas.

Mr. Webster noted that the DPW has been refusing to accept items for disposal that are not in accord with the new rules. Recently, a man trying to dispose of a boat, and another man with a large pick-up truck loaded with fencing debris/material were refused entry and told that they would have to take those loads to the Central Landfill or hire a private waste disposal firm.

## **VI: Re-Licensing of the Landfill**

Mr. Webster distributed a copy of the new license for the landfill that had been received from RI-DEM. The license runs from 13 December 2005 through 13 December 2008.

Chairman Wyman noted that he had recently read that the central Landfill in Johnston is running out of space more quickly than had been anticipated. Part of the problem appears to be a lower than expected rate of recycling by State residents. Mr. Steckman noted that the rate of recycling within Tiverton is actually quite good – almost every residence participates in the program. Mr. Webster stated that the exact recycling percentage for Tiverton is not known, because the Town does not weight the trash being landfilled. It is estimated by Pare Engineering to be at least 20%. Mr. Ramotowski suggested that the percentage should be even higher now, because the large private developments are now participating in the recycling program, whereas previously, they did not, even though their trash was going to the Town landfill. In addition, as was previously noted, the change in landfill operational rules has resulted in less material being deposited in the landfill – very little commercial and/or construction waste is now going in.

## **VII: Containers for Recyclables at Landfill**

Mr. Webster noted that this item had been discussed earlier during the meeting. There are now two dumpsters for cardboard recycling provided by Allied and located within the landfill near the scrap metal dumpster.

## **VIII: Landfill Observation Wells**

Mr. Webster noted that the Town Council had awarded the contract to install three new water quality observation wells at the landfill to the low bidder, Subsurface Drilling and Remediation Inc. The budget for installing the new wells was set at \$5,000.00 and the winning bid was for \$4,400.00. There were three

other bidders, but the bids from two companies were disqualified, and the remaining bid was much higher (about double that of the low bidder).

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the bid for the new wells included the capping of the old wells that were being replaced. Mr. Webster replied that it did not; the capping of the old wells will be carried out by Tiverton DPW under the direction of Pare Engineering.

Mr. Fernandes asked where the new wells would be located. Mr. Webster stated that the old wells being replaced were actually located within the confines of areas where trash was buried in the past. The new wells would be located near the wells being replaced, but outside the confines of the areas where trash had been historically buried according to the Pare survey. RI-DEM wants the new wells to be located within 100 feet of the limit of the landfill boundary (where trash has actually been buried). One new well will be located to the left of the bend of the main access road as it heads into the landfill. Another will be located somewhat to the east of well OW-3, and the third will be located to the west of well 1A. RI-DEM has been apprised of the new well locations and has given its concurrence.

#### **IX: New Items Added to the Agenda:**

- Results of June 2006 Quarterly Water Monitoring:

Mr. Webster distributed a copy of the draft report detailing the results of the groundwater monitoring that had been carried out in June of 2006 by Pare Engineering. Ten metals were detected at well OW-1A, and one metal, arsenic, exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water. Three volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were also detected at low levels in the sample from this well. Eleven metals were detected in the samples from well OW-2; none, however, exceeded the drinking water MCL. Three VOCs were also detected at low levels in the water sample from this well. Nine metals were detected in the sample from well OW-3, and one of those metals, arsenic, exceeded the MCL for drinking water. Four VOCs were detected at low concentrations in the OW-3 water sample. Eight metals were detected in the "background" well, OW-9. None of the metals detected exceeded the applicable MCL for drinking water. No VOCs were detected in the water sample from this well. An attempt was made to collect a sample from well OW-5 during this round of testing, but the well was discovered to be dry at the time samples were being collected in the field.

Mr. Webster noted that the wells from which the MCL exceedances for arsenic were obtained (wells OW-3 and OW-1A) are now known to lie within the historic boundaries of past trash burial and are scheduled to be replaced with new wells in the near future that will be located outside of the areas in which trash had been buried in the past. Thus, the plan is to take no action at this time concerning the

arsenic readings and wait to see what the results are from the replacement wells during the third quarter testing in September of 2006.

Mr. Webster reminded the Subcommittee that it needs to look at and review the entire water testing program. Additional testing sites (e.g., wells from nearby homes, etc.) need to be identified so that they can be added to the program. This review needs to be coordinated with Pare Engineering.

- Alternate Cover Material from Aggregate Industries

Mr. Webster reported that he and T. Thies of Pare Engineering had made a site visit to Aggregate Industries Inc. in Stoughton, MA, to view the material that the company has offered to the Town for use at the landfill. Pare believes that the material is potentially usable. Test results will be reviewed and then submitted to RI-DEM for an official ruling on suitability for use as cover material at the landfill. The material that would be provided is mildly contaminated soil that is treated at Aggregate Industries site to make it suitable for use. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has approved the treated material for use as landfill cover within Massachusetts. Only treated and tested material would be used in Tiverton.

Mr. Ramotowski asked about the cost of the material and the testing. Mr. Webster replied that there would be no charge for the material, and Aggregate Industries would also transport it for free to the Tiverton landfill. Aggregate Industries is also paying for all of the testing. The only cost for the Town of Tiverton is that of Pare Engineering to review the test results and apply for permission from RI-DEM to use the material at our landfill. Mr. Ramotowski asked how much material was available. Mr. Webster replied that at least 100,000 cubic yards could be made available to Tiverton. Aggregate Industries constantly receives and processes new material. They screen out and remove large items such as rocks, asphalt, and concrete, etc.

Mr. Webster reported that he had received a call from the Town of Middletown, RI, about the possibility of accepting street sweepings from that Town at the landfill. Mr. Webster stated that he had agreed to take the material from Middletown. Mr. Fernandes stated that he was surprised that Tiverton would accept street sweepings. Mr. Webster stated that street sweepings from Tiverton, Portsmouth, and the State of Rhode Island are presently accepted at the landfill, in addition to the material now coming from Middletown. The material is mostly sand from winter sanding operations, but it can include some trash and other debris.

- Results of Landfill Inspection by RI-DEM

Mr. Webster reported that the landfill had been inspected by RI-DEM personnel on June 28, 2006. The inspectors found the overall condition of the landfill to be

“very good.” There were no findings or deficiencies issued as a result of this inspection. Mr. Webster distributed a copy of the landfill inspection report to all members of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee members congratulated Mr. Webster and the Tiverton DPW for all their hard work in keeping the landfill in compliance with RI-DEM guidelines and regulations.

#### **X: Discuss Date of Next Meeting/Adjournment**

Mr. Ramotowski stated that he had recently been informed by a Town resident who was walking the track at the Town Farm recreation area about 9:00 PM one recent night that an unmarked pick-up truck had entered the landfill. The driver had keys to open the gates. The truck did not appear to be carrying any trash or other material that could be deposited at the landfill. It did, however, proceed down the access road at a very high rate of speed. Mr. Ramotowski asked if this vehicle might belong to the company managing the cell phone towers located on the landfill property. Mr. Webster stated that the truck could have been from the cell phone tower company, but also a number of other people – Allied (the Town’s trash collection firm), the Police Department, Bob Martin, Garry Plunkett from the Open Space Commission, etc., also have keys. Mr. Steckman suggested that better control over who has keys to the landfill might be necessary, and he would look into this issue.

Chairman Wyman noted that the next meeting for the Landfill Subcommittee was scheduled for 3:00 PM on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at the Town Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Landfill Subcommittee’s 16 August 2006 regular meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

These minutes were recorded and compiled by T. Ramotowski